The A.F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WE PLEDGE—
1 BILLION DOLLARS
IN
WAR SAVINGS BONDS
FOR VICTORY

WHOLE NO. 1645 WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1942 GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer VOL. 32, NO. 42

Green Predicts Hitler Army's Collapse In Coming Year; AFL Convention Unanimously Reelects Him President; Meany And Executive Council Also Chosen For New Term

FACING the FACTS

With PHILIP PEARL

Well, here we are back again at the old stand after spending three busy weeks at the Toronto convention of the American Federation of Labor. During the convention, our daily activities prevented us from taking time out to report on the proceedings, but now that we've had an opportunity to reflect and cogitate, we'd like to tell you about a few things that won't appear in the official records.

In the first place, our three-week stay in Toronto gave us a preview of the severe war conditions that will unquestionably be imposed upon the people of the United States within a relatively short time. Canada has been in this war since 1939 and its people are therefore far ahead of us in sacrifices, both voluntary and compulsory.

Although conscription for military service is not yet in effect in Canada, a tremendous proportion of the male population and a great number of women are in the armed service. The manpower problem, therefore, is acute, and there is even a serious shortage of women to fill the jobs left open by enlistment of men for fighting duty.

Price Control Trips Up

Job freezing, wage regulation and strict price control are the law in Canada and the people are accepting these infringements on their normal liberties without complaining despite numerous grievances and mistakes in administration.

Rationing of gasoline and scarce articles of the table such as sugar, coffee and tea seems to be working out efficiently. But, because of price control, the people of Canada are suffering new and unexpected shortages of foods that should be plentifully available.

For instance, beef was just not to be had during our entire stay in Toronto. This was somewhat amazing because Canada is one of the great beef-producing nations of the world. True, a great amount is being shipped to Great Britain and the armed services of Canada are consuming a huge share. But there should still be beef for the public, even under these circumstances, were it not for the peculiar and unforeseen results of price control.

Wholesale and retail beef prices are controlled by law. Therefore, the wholesalers, in order to stay in business, are compelled to limit the price they can pay to farmers and ranch owners for cattle. The farmers refuse to sell at this price, claiming it would mean a loss to them. They prefer to fatten their cattle for future markets, expecting the beef shortage will result in relaxation of the price regulations. The Government, susceptible to political pressure from the farm belt, does not dare as yet to crack down on the farmers. And the result is that the public gets no beef to eat.

Still, no squawks are heard. The citizenry eat what they can get and like it. It's rather tough on the poultry population of Canada, because chickens and turkeys are being slaughtered in unusual numbers, but they have no votes.

No War Against Labor

The people of Canada know there is a war on because thousands of their sons and brothers and relatives already have paid the supreme sacrifice and many more thousands are taking their places on the battle-lines. They are proud of the opportunity of doing their share and they are grateful for the assistance which the United States is now rendering the United Nations. One evidence of this is the fact that at ~~all~~ public gatherings the customary toast to the King is always followed by a similar toast to the President of the United States.

The workers of Canada, many of whom are members of the American Federation of Labor, are doing a superlatively fine job and the public appreciate their service. There is far less anti-labor agitation in Canada than in the United States. The newspapers do not play up the few unimportant strikes that occur. Recognition is given widely and whole-heartedly to the patriotic service of labor in speeding war production. Even though labor in Canada is not as widely organized as in the United States and despite the fact that in normal times opposition to unionism is keener there than here, the Government, industry, management and the public are giving the workers a helping and encouraging hand now that the entire nation is pulling together to help win the war.

Perhaps when the stark realities of total war impress themselves deeper upon the consciousness of Americans, the enemies of labor in this country will also see the light and halt their war against unions long enough to join in the fight against the real enemies of all Americans who menace us from abroad!

Convention Acts To Extend Aid To Labor Press Loyal to AFL in 1943

Toronto.—In a special effort to aid the labor press, the 62d annual convention of the American Federation of Labor authorized President William Green to appoint a committee to explore ways and means by which such assistance can be rendered. The committee will report its findings to the Executive Council.

The convention took this action in approving unanimously a report by the Resolutions Committee, which read as follows:

"The vast flood of anti-labor propaganda loosed upon the American people during the past year shows no signs of abating. The enemies of labor continue to seize upon every pretext and excuse to revile and condemn and villify the motives and activities of the labor movement. No expense is spared and no medium of expression and communication is overlooked in this campaign. Through the news columns of the daily press, through the syndicated articles of hostile columnists, through newspaper advertisements, magazine articles and books, and even over the radio, the anti-labor poison is spread.

"We concur with the report of the Executive Council in commending the efforts of the Publicity and Information Service of the American Federation of Labor to combat this propaganda and to present the truth about labor to our own membership and to the American people as a whole.

"The new 'Labor for Victory' radio program especially gives labor a wider opportunity to tell its story in a direct and undistorted way to the public, and your committee recommends that this convention express its appreciation to the National Broadcasting Company for making this radio time available to the American Federation of Labor.

"Nevertheless, we must face the fact that most mediums of public expression are distinctly inimical to labor and are being used to damage labor's interests. Labor does not have the funds or facilities to match its enemies at present.

"The one field of expression which is wholly friendly to and cooperative with labor is the bona fide labor press. Your committee recommends that this convention give more than a perfunctory vote of thanks to the labor press for the splendid way in which it has rallied to labor's cause and fought labor's battles during the past year. We recommend that action be taken by the American Federation of Labor to aid and assist and support more fully than ever before these friendly publications and to help them reach a wider audience. To this end your committee suggests that this convention authorize the appointment of a special committee by the President of the American Federation of Labor which would explore ways and means by which further assistance can be extended to the labor press and which would report its findings to the Executive Council."

Social Center For Men In Service Opened by Ladies' Garment Workers

New York City.—The first social center for service men to be operated by a labor union here was opened at Labor Stage—home of the famed "Pins and Needles"—by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union.

Social affairs and dances will be held at the ILGWU cultural center. Hostesses will be drawn from the ILGWU Women's Brigade which consists of younger members who have been active in civilian defense activities, directed by Anne Ramsay.

At the same time, David Dubinsky, ILGWU president, said the union will offer a "Pageant of American Labor" to government agencies for bond-selling purposes. The pageant was especially written for the union by Ben Hecht and scored with music by Harold J. Rome.

"No expense will be spared to make this double barrelled war-aid program a valuable contribution to the national effort," Louis Schaffer, Labor Stage director said. "We are ripping out the seats of the theatre to make room for tables and dance space. We are preparing a pageant which will become an effective bond-selling agency in New York City and in other centers which it will tour."

MARINE CORPS TO OBSERVE 167TH BIRTHDAY NOV. 10

Jersey City, N. J.—Alexander F. Ormsby, National Commandant of the Marine Corps League, announced that the 167th birthday of the United States Marine Corps, the oldest military organization in the country, will be celebrated on Nov. 10.

MARATHON BATTERY UNION SUPPORTS WAR BOND PLAN

Wausau, Wis. — AFL Marathon Battery Workers Union Local No. 20690 has enrolled over 90 per cent of its workers for the ten per cent war bond plan. The union has already bought $400 worth of bonds.

Labor For Victory!

New York City.—In a snappy "Labor For Victory" broadcast, AFL Secretary-Treasurer George Meany and John Fewkes, president of the American Federation of Teachers, highlighted the outstanding actions of the recent 62d annual convention of the American Federation of Labor designed to help America win the war and win the ensuing peace.

Mr. Meany declared that the keynote, the underlying theme and the final conclusions of the convention could be expressed in these words—"Victory First!"

"That was the convention's rallying call to all American workers," Mr. Meany said, "a call they will respond to by winning the battle of production."

The convention took definite and sweeping action to fulfill President William Green's pledge to President Roosevelt that labor will exceed every Government standard for war production, Mr. Meany declared. He summarized:

"First, we resolved unanimously that all affiliated unions and all their members will do everything within their power for the duration to increase war production and to speed war production, no matter how great the difficulties or sacrifices involved. To that end, the convention reinforced and reaffirmed labor's no-strike policy.

"Secondly, we voted full support of every Government policy and program necessary for the successful prosecution of the war. This includes wage stabilization, price control, rationing, manpower mobilization, the heavier taxes all of us must bear and the purchase of war savings bonds.

"Third, we demanded, in order to make these policies and programs effective—to take them out of the theoretical stage and to place them into efficient operation—that labor be given adequate representation on the Federal, State and local agencies which will administer the war program."

Asked whether the convention pointed out in what respects the policies and practices of war agencies could be improved to further the war effort and to protect the interests of American workers, Mr. Meany said:

"We certainly did. With respect to wage stabilization, we urged that the final decisions on wage adjustments be left in the hands of the National War Labor Board. On manpower mobilization, we found that job freezing is not yet necessary and should not be undertaken until the representatives of the Government, of management and of labor conclude that it must be done as a last resort. We strongly recommended that the full benefits of union-management cooperation should be utilized in all war production plants by the establishment of labor-management committees. We criticized the National Labor Relations Board for permitting and encouraging raiding by rival unions in war plants. We called upon the Department of Justice to abandon its hopeless and destructive anti-trust campaign against certain unions. And finally, in order to centralize and coordinate the entire war program, we proposed the creation of an over-all Board for Military and Civilian Strategy."

Asked if the convention suggested anything that organized labor could do on its own volition to further the war effort, Mr. Meany replied:

"We took what I consider to be the most constructive action since the war started to unite labor's ranks. We extended to the Congress of Industrial Organizations an urgent call for an immediate armistice between the AFL and the CIO pending the result of peace conferences between representatives of the two organizations which are scheduled to begin next month.

"To my mind this is of the utmost importance. An immediate armistice, or a truce, will serve to end bitterness and rivalry that exists in many localities, it will reduce friction and strife among workers engaged in war production and it will enable the peace conferences to get under way in a real spirit of good-will. There never was any justifiable reason or excuse for disunity in the ranks of organized labor. Now that our nation is engaged in a desperate war for survival it is more imperative than ever before that its loyal workers unite into a single army of production soldiers dedicated to the supreme goal of victory!"

Mr. Fewkes said the second outstanding objective of the convention was to chart a program for the winning of the peace that will follow victory. He summarized the convention's action on post-war problems as follows:

"First, the American Federation of Labor insisted on the utter destruction and extermination of the evil genius of Nazism and Fascism which is responsible for the sufferings and the slaughter of millions of human beings today. Secondly, we demanded immediate restoration to the victims of the Axis powers of their individual and national freedom and independence. Third, we urged that the nations of the world conclude a permanent and just peace, based upon a code of international fair play and security for all peoples—the kind of security that can come only from universal application of the Four Freedoms enunciated by President Roosevelt."

Asked what special responsibility labor would undertake at the peace table after the war is over, Mr. Fewkes said:

"We would make it our business to prevent selfish deals by international politicians and to insist on a new deal for the entire world. I am confident that the statesmen who govern the United Nations will support us to the limit in this endeavor."

After voicing a scathing indictment of Nazi and Japanese crimes against humanity, Mr. Fewkes concluded:

"Facing these facts, the 62d annual convention of the American Federation of Labor resolved that such things must never be permitted to happen again, that this war must be won at whatever cost and that we must win the peace to banish such outrages for all time."

Thorough Organization of Women Workers Urged by AFL Convention

TORONTO.—The need of organizing women into the AFL wherever they work was stressed by the convention.

It concurred unanimously in a statement urging "recognition of the growing importance of women in the trade union movement."

"Their participation," the convention said, "in our bona fide trade unions in such occupations in which they are being called to serve is a matter of deepest concern to our movement, to these workers and to the community as a whole.

"Millions of women will enter industry this year. Their service to their country, to their immediate community and to the general human welfare is enriched and improved, we believe, to the degree to which they participate with full understanding in the constructive programs of their respective unions.

"Every possible encouragement and assistance should be granted to unions seeking to enlist women in our movement."

Judge Tells Arnold Law Prevents Injunction Against Musicians Union

Chicago.—In a formal opinion following his summary dismissal of the anti-trust injunction suit brought by Assistant Attorney General Thurman Arnold against the American Federation of Musicians, Federal Judge John P. Barnes made it abundantly clear that there is no authority in law for proceeding against the union's ban on commercial music recordings.

The Federal District Court judge declared that the controversy between the union and the radio and recordings interests is a labor dispute and as such comes within the scope of the Norris-LaGuardia Act which forbids court injunctions in labor disputes.

"The subject of the dispute," Judge Barnes wrote, "is, generally speaking, the question as to whether the members of the union shall be employed to make all the music that is to be made or shall be employed to make only part of it, the remainder being made by means of phonograph records and electrical transcriptions and by amateur musicians.

"In view of the conditions, jurisdiction does not exist to grant any of the injunctive relief sought."

The dismissal of this suit constitutes another severe setback to Thurman Arnold in his anti-trust campaign against labor unions which has thus far proven uniformly unsuccessful.

Roosevelt Names Green To Represent Labor On Stabilization Board

Washington, D. C.—President Roosevelt appointed AFL President William Green as one of the two labor representatives on the new Economic Stabilization Board which will advise Director James F. Byrnes on measures necessary to maintain the cost of living on an even keel. Philip Murray, CIO chief, was the other labor representative designated.

To represent management, the President named Eric A. Johnston, head of the United States Chamber of Commerce and Ralph E. Flanders, president of the Jones & Lamson Machine Co. Farm representatives will be Edward A. O'Neal, of the American Farm Bureau Federation and James G. Patton, president of the National Farmers Union.

These men will serve with the heads of key Federal war agencies and Cabinet members on the stabilization board.

At the first meeting of the board, Director Byrnes announced he had given authority to the National War Labor Board to pass upon pay rises to workers earning under $3,000 a year and to others earning up to $5,000 a year, if their compensation were fixed by collective bargaining agreements.

The Treasury Department will regulate salaries of more than $3,000 a year which do not come within the scope of the NWLB.

Mr. Byrnes, former Supreme Court Justice, told the Economic Stabilization Board that "every man and woman, every dollar and thing, everything, must be utilized for the quickest winning of the war." He listed the following as among the outstanding problems that lie ahead:

"Compulsory savings and other proposed measures to control excess spending power.

"Prospects as to future rationing needs.

"The spacing of military and lend-lease purchasing.

"Prospective subsidy needs and considerations which should govern or limit the use of subsidies.

"Wages of farm labor.

"The effect of the stabilization of wages on manpower problems, particularly on the migration of workers."

To reassure government agencies which feared his appointment might overshadow them, Mr. Byrnes told the board it was his desire that the separate agencies should increase in importance rather than diminish, and said he would step in "only where there are conflicts or where I think economic stabilization is threatened in any field."

AFL TREASURY REPORTS FISCAL YEAR SURPLUS

Toronto.—The AFL is in sound financial condition, the report of the auditing committee to the convention showed.

While the federation received from per capita, initiation fees, interest on bonds and other sources, $2,309,181.72, its total expenditures were only $2,049,160.30 during the past year, the report showed.

Most of the AFL's money went into organizing, the report said, and the federation ended the year with a balance of $1,267,171.38—nearly $200,000 ahead of last year. Most of the funds are invested in U. S. bonds.

LABOR CONFERENCE CALLED BY AMERICAN RED CROSS

Washington, D. C.—Invitations to a nation-wide conference of labor leaders to discuss labor's part in the war work of the American Red Cross were issued to presidents of all AFL, CIO and Railroad Brotherhood unions by Red Cross Chairman Norman H. Davis. The meeting will be held at the Washington Hotel here on October 30.

Stressing the desire of the Red Cross for the "fullest and most effective participation of organized labor in its services," Chairman Davis asked that each union representative be prepared to report the extent of Red Cross activity already undertaken and offer suggestions as to how this participation can be organized and increased.

AFL CONVENTION SEEKS REAFFILIATION OF ITU

Toronto.—Every effort should be made to help bring the International Typographical Union back into the American Federation of Labor, the federation's convention unanimously voted in approving a recommendation of the committee on the executive council's report.

The committee noted with "deep regret" that no progress had been made in this direction since the Seattle convention.

AFL Chief Also Stresses Need For Winning Peace and For Labor Unity in Acceptance Speech

Toronto.—William Green was unanimously re-elected President of the American Federation of Labor for his nineteenth consecutive annual term at the conclusion of the greatest and most constructive convention in the history of the Federation.

The delegates also unanimously re-elected Secretary-Treasurer George Meany and the thirteen incumbent AFL Vice Presidents.

In responding to the convention's call to lead the six million members of the AFL for another year, President Green warned of increasing responsibilities of labor and new difficulties imposed by the war but emphasized his faith in eventual victory.

"We have firmly resolved," he added, "that, come what may, the war must be decisively won by the United Nations.

"You have solemnly pledged on the floor of this convention your honor, your service and your lives that this war might be won.

"Secondly, when the war is won, we must win the peace. We can't win one and lose the other.

"We must devote our energy, our power and our persuasive influences in an effort to bring peace, unity and solidarity within the ranks of labor. That must be our solemn objective within the coming year.

"I believe within my heart that the year 1943 is going to be the decisive year in this war, that sometime during this decisive year the German war machine is going to collapse."

The convention responded to this challenge with resounding applause and took swift action to promote policies and programs best calculated to further the war effort. Outstanding developments of the closing sessions were:

1—Called for the creation of an over-all board for Military and Civilian strategy to centralize and coordinate direction of the entire war program.

2—Reaffirmed and reinforced labor's no-strike policy.

3—Approved the new economic stabilization program urging that decisions on wages be left entirely to the National War Labor Board.

4—Endorsed the Manpower Mobilization program, but declared there is no justification as yet for job-freezing.

5—Called for full labor representation on all war agencies of the Federal, State and local governments.

6—Pledged the six million AFL members to buy another billion dollars' worth of War Bonds in 1943.

7—Initiated a sweeping program of trade union assistance to various forms of relief through the United Nations Relief Fund.

8—Adopted a momentous report on International Labor Relations calling for closer cooperation of the labor movements of the United States and Great Britain and closer relationships with Pan-American labor.

9—Declared that labor will take its place at the peace table after the war to assure world-wide peace and social security.

10—Endorsed union-management cooperation to speed full production in war plants by the formation of labor-management committees under the auspices of the War Production Board.

Over-All Military and Civilian Strategy Board Is Urged by AFL

Toronto. — An over-all board for Military and Civilian Strategy, which would "decide as between military and civilian uses, upon procurement policies which affect the fundamental structure of our economy and similar over-all policies which concern the prosecution of the war" was urged by the 62d annual convention of the AFL.

This declaration was the outstanding convention recommendation for solution of the problems of war economy. The convention said the strategy board must have labor representation and suggested the following supplementary program:

1. Centralization of responsibility in the War Production Board for war supplies.
2. Control over all manpower by the Manpower Commission Chairman and an end to army and navy recruitment.
3. Appointment of the secretary of agriculture as food administrator.
4. Administration of all rationing by the director of economic stabilization.
5. Authority for a director of small industries to protect small business adequately.

All of these centralized agencies would be directed by the proposed over-all board. This board should be comprised of Vice President Henry A. Wallace as chairman, Secretary of War Henry Stimson, Secretary of Navy Frank Knox, Economic Stabilization Director James F. Byrnes, Secretary of Agriculture Claude Wickard, War Transportation Director Joseph Eastman, and two representatives each from industry, organized labor and agriculture, the convention said.

In another resolution the convention recommended that the issues of war production as between the Army, Navy, Maritime Commission and WPB be shortly resolved into something like a ministry of supply with greater labor representation.

Fourth Anniversary of Wage-Hour Act To Be Next 'Labor for Victory' Theme

Washington, D. C.—The fourth anniversary of the Fair Labor Standards Act will be celebrated under the joint auspices of the AFL and the CIO in the next "Labor For Victory" radio program which will be aired on Oct. 25 from 1:15 to 1:30 P.M., E.W.T., over the nation-wide facilities of the National Broadcasting Company.

Among the speakers listed for this program are AFL President William Green, Under Secretary of War Robert P. Patterson, Administrator L. Metcalfe Walling, of the Wage-Hour Administration, and CIO President Philip Murray.

The next "Labor For Victory" broadcast under AFL auspices will go on the air Nov. 8. It will be devoted to the story of how labor is cooperating with the United States Navy. Assistant Secretary of the Navy Ralph Bard will be the principal speaker and music will be provided by the United States Navy Band.

House Votes To Outlaw Poll Tax; Only 84 Congressmen Oppose Bill

Washington, D. C.—Following an intensive campaign by the American Federation of Labor in favor of the enactment of a bill to outlaw the poll tax, the House of Representatives passed the measure by an overwhelming majority of 252 to 84 on a roll-call vote.

Eight States—Tennessee, Virginia, Arkansas, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and Texas—require the payment of poll taxes as a condition for voting, and it was from their Representatives that the chief opposition stemmed.

The controversial issue, long pigeon-holed in the House Judiciary Committee, came up for House consideration only after it was forced to the floor by a discharge petition introduced early last year by the late Representative Geyer of California and signed by a majority of the members.